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ALEXANDRIA:
FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1858.

The Navy Department has received despatches from Commander John A. Dahlgren, commanding the United States ship Plymouth, giving the particulars of the visit of that vessel to Tampico, and of an interview with President Juarez at Vera Cruz, October 17th. President Juarez declared "that the practice of levying forced loans was improper, and should not be continued, and that he would instruct Governor Garza by the next British packet." President Juarez exhibited every disposition to prevent our citizens from being subjected to improper annoyances in Mexico, and repeated his desire to sustain the best understanding with the United States.

The building in Portsmouth, Va., known as the Academy, was destroyed by fire on the 1st instant. Every exertion was made by the firemen to save the building, but without success. It was insured in the Mutual for \$5,000. Three hundred children attended this school, which was free. The books and fixtures were consumed. There have been recently several incendiary fires in Portsmouth.

All the New York papers concur in stating that, as a general thing, the late election was, with some exceptions, very quiet. The Courier says:—"The election, notwithstanding a few serious outbreaks, was upon the whole, one of the most orderly public demonstrations held in the kind that has been witnessed in New York for many years. The immense police force—some 2,300 strong—was, unquestionably, the principal cause that brought about so desirable a result."

The Criminal Court of Baltimore, commenced on Monday the trial of Henry Gambrill, indicted for the murder of police officer Benjamin Bonten, on the night of the 22d of September last, by shooting him with a pistol. Mr. Edward Duffy appears as an assistant counsel for the State's attorney, by appointment of Friendship Lodge of Odd Fellows, to which the deceased belonged.

From the Volksblatt, published at the German settlement of Hermann, in Missouri, we learn that this year's vintage in the vicinity of Hermann, in spite of the poor prospects in the earlier part of the season, has been an average one. The quantity of wine produced will reach twenty-five thousand gallons.

The Union says, very justly, that the recent judicious and dignified proclamation of the President, will do more to advance American interests on the Isthmus, than all the filibusters that could be crowded into the Gulf, and all the Walkers that our Navy could bring away from the menaced coasts.

A Philadelphia paper sums up the total results of the anthracite coal business during the season thus far, which show a good recovery from the effects of the financial crash of the autumn of 1857, the present season only falling below last year to the amount of about 170,000 tons.

If the Democratic party at the North, are not able to contend successfully against the Republicans, might not a union of National Conservative men, in the re-organization of the Whig party, effect so desirable a result?

The "City Reform Association of Baltimore" is variously commented on by the papers of that city. It is to be hoped that it will not lead to excitement, instead of allaying it.

Mr. Smith, and Mr. Shackelford, candidates for Congress, from this District, addressed the people at Prince William Court, on Monday last.

W. B. Tyler, esq., formerly of Frederick, Md., one of the Directors on the part of the State, in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, has resigned.

On 21st that the State Agricultural Society contemplate a proposition for amalgamation with the Union Society.

It is said that Mr. Ward, of Georgia, has been tendered the Chinese mission, and has accepted the appointment.

Another fishery dispute has sprung up between the French and English, along the coast of Newfoundland.

The Coming Congress.

In a month Congress will meet, and the curtain be again drawn up for the executive and legislative drama to renew its endless progress. It is needless to remark that Congress will be composed, with individual exceptions, of the members who sat last winter. The Administration will not be confronted by an adverse majority, as will probably be the case in the ensuing Congress. There can, therefore, be no satisfactory reason why the Executive may not propose and carry whatever measures it deems necessary or advantageous for the general welfare. If there be wisdom in the Administration, or virtue in Democracy, a fair field is offered for their exercise, and the country should have the benefit of them.

Prominent among the subjects which the wants of the times most have impressed upon the mind of the President and his advisers, as requiring earnest and prompt attention, is the condition of the Treasury and the balance-sheet of national income and expenditure.—*Rich. Whig.*

A Suit to Recover Wedding "Fixings." At Detroit a young man named Henry Lewis has commenced a suit against a young lady named Mary Ann West, to recover some \$70 worth of wedding "fixings" which he bought for her recently. She doesn't want to marry him, and he is bound to lose no money by the operation. He alleges that they are his, having been obtained by her without consideration. Per contra, she declares that they are all "her's," and has replied them.—*And thus the matter stands at present.*

Telegraphic Despatches.

QUEBEC, Nov. 3.—The ship George, Capt. Green, of N. Orleans, bound from Grandstair for New York, was lost in the Baltic. Her cargo consisted of sheet iron, valued at \$100,000.

MOBILE, Nov. 2.—The ship Cornelia Lawrence, of New York, with a cargo of 800 bales of hay, was totally burnt in the bay, last evening.

NEW YORK, Nov. 3.—The Sub-Treasury sent two hundred thousand dollars to Washington to-day, which reduced the balance here to eight and a half millions. The Empire City, for New Orleans to-day, took six hundred and fifty thousand dollars in gold. The first crop New Orleans sugar of the season sold here at eight cents per pound.

The grand jury of the Oyer and Terminer this morning, brought in an indictment against Mayor Wood and a majority of the boards of aldermen and councilmen of last year, for violating the charter and conspiring to defraud the city.

The Commercial says the "opposition" in the Assembly will be largely in the majority. The Senate holds another year.

HALEFAX, Nov. 3.—Advices from Sable Island state that a vessel was seen on the morning of the 30th ult., on the north side of the island. At noon a steamer from the eastward went to the wreck, and after two hours' detention proceeded westward.—The weather was fine and the sun shone, but nothing was seen of the burning vessel after the steamer left.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 2.—The extensive boot and shoe warehouse of H. Child & Co., in Wood street, took fire this afternoon, and in a few minutes the entire building was enveloped in flames. Child & Co. lose their entire stock of goods, which, however, is partially insured. Several adjoining premises were damaged.

UTICA, N. Y., Nov. 3.—Orestes B. Matteson, member of Congress, was challenged at the polls of the ward where he resides in this city, yesterday, and his vote was refused.—The ground of the challenge was, that he had a wager pending on the result of the election. The challenge, was insisted upon and he did not vote.

NEW YORK, Nov. 3.—The British bark Claude, from Quebec for Sunderland, and a large cargo of goods, was wrecked on the 1st of October, and the captain and seven of the crew perished. The remainder have arrived here.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 2.—The Bank of Tennessee resumed specie payments yesterday.

Daily Immersion of the Head.

Dr. Bissell, one of the quarantine physicians at Staten Island, in giving the reasons touching the matter of the daily immersion of the head, says:—"that if a person's hair is washed at least every day, he is not liable to disease, because cleanliness of the person is always a preventive. If a man were to work all day in the vicinity of the sick, and the hair wet with perspiration, the doctor don't think he would get the disease; but if he lets his hair get dirty and matted, he thinks he could not get well escape."

The Norfolk Herald copies the foregoing and adds the following corroborative testimony:

So important a result from so simple a cause may seem incredible to many, but not to us. There is not a more effective preventive of disease than the immersion of the head in cold water every morning the year round. We know an old gentleman now the rise of seventy, who says that until he was thirty years old he was of a weakly constitution, and particularly liable to attacks of bilious fever, violent colds and headache; but having heard that the best preventive of headache was to wash the head in cold water every morning, immediately after rising, he then commenced the practice, and has continued it to the present time, and during the interval of forty years has never had the bilious fever, hardly known what the headache is, and has sometimes taken cold, has never had a cold that hindered him from attending to his ordinary affairs; add to this, he passed unscathed through the terrible epidemic of 1855.

The Portuguese Epidemic.

For many years, Portugal has been practically a quarantine of England. The influence of the latter power with the small Peninsular kingdom, has been greatly preponderating, even over her own inclinations, as was shown particularly in her abandonment of the slave trade, which she gave up with great reluctance, and only in obedience to the will of Great Britain. Yet it is now precisely in the support of British policy on this matter that she has drawn down upon her the insults and menaces of France. The affair with Portugal, relative to the capture of the *Charbon*, therefore, the most interesting question of the day, and one which it would seem impossible should be involved without an unmistakable defeat of English policy or the alternative of a dissolution of the alliance between the two countries and a resort to arms. The humiliation of England. It will be so felt and understood not only, but it will be so in its practical effects. The triumph of France in the present instance will be a severe blow to the pride and power of Great Britain, for if she yields in this case, she must concede in other things hereafter.—*Bull. Am.*

Dr. O. R. Funsten.

An overwhelming majority of the voters of the Frederick Senatorial district, without regard to party, will deeply regret to learn that Dr. Oliver R. Funsten, the present Senator, has decided to retire from political life, and the entrance of his numerous friends to become a candidate for re-election next May, have been unavailing. His purposes, it would seem, are fixed. This almost universal regret at the Doctor's retirement is not to be wondered at, because, while he is a warm partisan, yet in the strifes and vicissitudes of party, he has never lost sight of the civilities of a gentleman and the duties of a representative. As a Senator (not eight years) he has been among the most efficient, widely known, and influential in the body of any other member. Whilst others of his brother Senators may have been indulging in speaking for Buncombe, he, by his amenity of manners, liberality, knowledge of mankind, and business habits, has been efficiently and practically taking care of the interests of his constituents and of the people of the State. The Doctor has done the State some service, for which he deserves our highest meed of praise.—*Winchester Virg.*

Keying the Chinese Mandarin.

The Paris Pays has private advices from Shanghai to the 12th of August, according to which the mandarin, Keying, was not sentenced to death, with the privilege of committing suicide, as reported by the correspondents of English journals. He was like Yeh, degraded and condemned to ten years confinement in the fortress of Tho-ho. This at his advanced age, will probably prove to be imprisonment for life.

The Imperial general Tsan-Kwo-Leang, who in June last suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Nankin rebels, likewise incurred the Emperor's displeasure; but as he is a great favorite with the army, it was thought advisable to punish him by proxy.—An officer of the General having been procured, one hundred lashes were administered to it with becoming gravity.

The Institution.

The Concord (N. H.) Statesman says a rather literary young gentleman, wearing a black coat, came to the city and told the hackman at the railway station that he wanted to go to "the institution," whereupon Jehu conveyed him to the State prison!

Charges against our Minister to China.

The London Times contains some grave accusations against Mr. Reed, our Minister to China.

"The Times is not the best authority for accusations against the United States or any other country that does not admit the right of the *entente cordiale* policy of England and France to rule in every part of the world.—The points of the charges against Mr. Reed are, that he made a weak treaty, in which he obtained very few advantages over what he before enjoyed, and then joined with the Russian Minister in an effort to induce Baron Gros not to insist upon obtaining the concession of a resident embassy at Peking, the right of free transit through the country, and of ports for trade, in addition to those conceded in the American treaty. This he did, says the Times, 'when the Chinese Commissioners had agreed by letter to all the English and French demands, the treaty had been drafted, and the hour had been named for the signature;' and 'these remonstrances were pressed so strongly upon Baron Gros that he, who had no special interest in the commercial stipulations, would have given up the points had he not been influenced by a loyal regard for the unity of the councils of England and France.'"

We cannot believe that Mr. Reed has permitted himself to be made so far the dupe and tool of Russian diplomacy as to endeavor to prevent the western nations from obtaining concessions, such as a resident embassy at Peking, free transit through the country, and additional ports for trade, which would redound to the advantage of his own country, under the comprehensive stipulations of the 25th article of his own treaty. On the other hand, we may have given up the points had he not been influenced by a loyal regard for the unity of the councils of England and France."

There may also be other reasons arising out of the complications from another quarter, which threaten to involve and disturb our good relations with the Anglo-French alliance. The accusations of the London Times against us, whatever may be the motive, our government should meet these grave charges with the publication of the facts in the case. Ours is no selfish and perverse diplomacy, demanding because it is necessary for the success of its tricks.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Gambler.

Willis, the New York gambler, charged with murder, has published a card in the Herald, in which, after complaining of unfair treatment by the press, he says:

"I am told that the great reason (1) which some people give for believing this absurd charge against me to be well founded, is that I am a gambler. It seems that even in this advanced age, there are still left a few persons whose capacity and taste incline them rather to listen to bug-aboo stories than to investigate the truth and then think for themselves. Why, Mr. Editor, if you recollect but for a minute, you will see that a gambler is about the last man in the world to kill a man, for money, or for any reason. Gamblers, like Wall street speculators generally, whose passions and temper in greater bold than any other class of men. They are quiet, and habitually put up with more insults than any other men, not because they have less pluck, but because they see no use in having a row, and they know that excitement from any cause invariably gives their opponent an advantage over them in play.—To show temper at the loss of money would make a gambler's friends lose confidence in him, and be less willing to 'stand' him than they would be. I think I can show to you that 'walking papers' stepped up to Professor S., and said, 'Professor, why did the Faculty send me off? I have done nothing.' 'Ah, Mr. G.," remarked the Professor, 'that is the very reason; you have been doing nothing!' If a young man comes to spend his parents' money, out as well, and do nothing. The Faculty are of opinion that he is benefiting neither himself nor the College, and dispense with his attendance."

Emory & Henry College, Va.

The Faculty are determined that the reputation of the College, for good morals, shall not be diminished, and have already commenced their work of banishment. Several delinquents have already been started home, and there is a probability that others will be shipped soon. Their offences are various. It may seem strange to your readers, that a student is frequently dismissed for nothing! An instance of this kind occurred recently. A student who had received his "walking papers," stepped up to Professor S., and said, "Professor, why did the Faculty send me off? I have done nothing." "Ah, Mr. G.," remarked the Professor, "that is the very reason; you have been doing nothing!" If a young man comes to spend his parents' money, out as well, and do nothing. The Faculty are of opinion that he is benefiting neither himself nor the College, and dispense with his attendance."

Record.

The New York Scalpel, through its Paris correspondent, furnishes the following interesting description of Ricord, probably the greatest living physician in the world: "He was at the bedside of a patient as we entered, and was speaking in rather a thick voice to his clinician, who crowded around him; he finished his remark with a low and suppressed laugh, and his servants scattered, and I had a view of the man. Imagine a man about fifty-five years of age, of medium height, slightly inclined to embonpoint, of pale complexion, black eyes, and brown hair, dressed in a simple and elegant manner. A prominent forehead and temples, over which ran blue veins and crow's feet wrinkles, a heavy under jaw, and thick underlip, make his face one that could scarcely pass unnoticed. His eye had but little animation. His fire seems to have burned out, but his wit is brilliant as ever. He evidently prides himself much on this power. When he was making his observation of a patient, his eyes started from his head and rolled around, but when he turned himself on to object, his remarks on a case were frequently and interperated with exclamations and short sayings, calculated to produce a laugh. He is a great actor, and his vast knowledge in all departments of science would have made him conspicuous in any profession. Although he is a native of America, being born in America, it is said he seldom, or never, mentions the subject. Ricord, we believe, is a native of Baltimore."

William and Mary College.

Last week, says the Norfolk Argus, the College of William and Mary opened under the new organization made by the Board of Visitors at their meeting in July last. This organization does not materially differ from the old one, except in omitting the department of law and dividing the department of languages into two departments. There are now six departments of schools, viz: Moral and Intellectual, Political Economy and Literature, History, Political Economy and Constitutional Law, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, Latin, Italian Literature, French, Spanish and Italian, and Greek, Greek Literature and German.

The course of studies in each department has been extended, and requires three years of study, making the undergraduate course as extensive and as thorough as in any institution in the United States.

Rev. Dr. Cheever, the notorious negro-philic preacher of New York, writes a communication in the Independent, in which he calls the *maecia* practice of the Paris doctors a "trial by fire," and says, "possibly we should hear something about suffering from fire there also." The indecency of this little clerical pleasantry will strike some people. Another profane man, not a doctor of divinity, commenting on Cheever's said, "I should call that a 'trial by fire'!"

American Iron Trade.

The Alexandria Gazette mentions the arrival at that port, via the canal, of about six hundred tons of iron rail, from the Mount Savage Iron Works, near Cumberland, Maryland, for the Orange and Alexandria Railway. We are highly gratified, that our Railway Companies are beginning to look to the furnaces of our own, instead of those of foreign countries, for their supply of rails. The fact that railway iron manufactured in our own country has a tougher texture, and should command it everywhere to Railway Companies. The cheapness of the imported article has doubtless operated to reduce its purchase from abroad, but whether to the advantage of the purchaser may well be a question, under such a statement of profit and loss as the facts of annual wear & tear show upon almost every railway in this country that has used English rails. We are glad to hear that several of our rail mills are increasing their make very materially. The price of English rails has dropped to a low figure at home, but there has as yet been but little demand for them from the low quality of the English rails in its effect upon the trade is seen by the state of the market, and the general feeling among the English Iron Masters, that in future they must not look this way for a great amount of sales.—An English gentleman connected with the engineering profession, now travelling in the United States, writes to one of the principal papers in London as follows:

"There are several complaints here of the quality of iron exported from England to this country, and bold prophecies made that the supply from the mother country will soon cease, on account of the inferior quality of the article."—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

Husband Obtained by False Pretences.

The late foreign papers contain an account of a trial in France growing out of a marriage in England between a young Frenchman and an English woman, who falsely represented her pecuniary circumstances and the social position of her family for the purpose of obtaining the consent of the young man's father to the union. The case is a curious one upon the facts, and the decision of the court is very important. The law declared by it is, that a French subject, under twenty years of age, who contracts a marriage in a foreign country without the consent of his father or parent. It follows from this that an American, before entering into a "French alliance" of this sort here, should be sure of one of two things, viz: that the other party is either twenty-five years of age or has obtained the parental consent to the marriage. The object of the French law probably is to oppose an obstacle to runaway matches on the part of young persons, by declaring marriages abroad, without the prescribed consent, invalid, in doing this the French have only extended their municipal law respecting marriage to French subjects abroad. The principle of the French law has been authoritatively asserted by the British House of Lords, as the High Court of Appeals, namely, that if either of the parties labors under any legal disability to enter into a marriage contract in England, and they proceed to another country and get married, such marriage will be declared invalid in England, and the issue of such marriage cannot inherit as heirs at law.—*Boston Courier.*

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A Petition Wile.

A few days since a gentleman residing in Rising Sun, Indiana, who was married a second time, wished to remove the body of his wife to a new cemetery. Preparations were made to that effect, and laborers opened the grave in the usual manner; but when they reached the coffin they could not get it out, and after waiting for some considerable assistance, however, the men succeeded in raising the coffin from the tomb. They could not resist the temptation of peering into the coffin and learning the reason for its unusual weight, and found, instead of the remains of a corpse, a stone figure, the exact counterpart of the woman who had died. This strange story soon spread, and hundreds and thousands of persons were present to see the strange spectacle. The husband took the body of his departed spouse home and laid it in a good coffin. After waiting for some considerable assistance, however, the men succeeded in raising the coffin from the tomb. 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